



Virginia Indian Advisory Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

10:30am – 11:30 am

Mechanicsville Branch Library

7461 Sherwood Crossing Place

Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Minutes

This meeting of the Virginia Indian Advisory Board was held in-person with a quorum present.

Board members attending in person:

Brandon Custalow, Chair

Cami Adkins

Dr. Gregg Kimball

Julie Langan

Dr. Ashley Spivey

Welcome

VIAB Chair, Brandon Custalow, called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members and guests. Suzanne Holland and Erik Conyers, representing the Secretary of the Commonwealth, also were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Chair Custalow asked if anyone had questions about the minutes of the March meeting that had been distributed electronically. The Board resolved one minor detail in the minutes. Dr. Spivey then moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Ms. Langan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Chair Custalow asked if anyone had changes to the proposed agenda. Hearing none, Ms. Langan moved approval of the agenda; the motion was seconded by Dr. Spivey and approved unanimously.

New Business: Designate a Secretary for Board Meetings

Chair Custalow invited nominations for a member of the Board to act as secretary. Dr. Kimball volunteered to act in that capacity. Ms. Langan volunteered to act as secretary in the event Dr. Kimball could not attend.

Update from VIAB Work Group

Dr. Brad Hatch, a member of the Recognition Workgroup, joined the meeting virtually to report on the Workgroup's progress. He reported that the Workgroup had conducted a preliminary



evaluation of the Wolf Creek Cherokee's submission for state recognition for all six criterion except criterion four. (Analysis of criterion four was delayed because of David Cornsilk's resignation as the Workgroup's genealogist.) The Workgroup subsequently sent letters to the Wolf Creek Cherokee outlining deficiencies in the application for recognition and requesting further information. The Workgroup has subsequently received more information and documents organized by each criteria.

Chair Custalow asked about the Workgroup's timeline. Dr. Hatch reported that reevaluation of the criteria would be possible by September. He also reported that Jean Kelly had begun her work as the Workgroup's genealogist and could have preliminary results by September. He said that much of the analysis and writing already done for the deficiency letters could be employed in the final report to the Board.

Ms. Holland noted that the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office is currently working to establish the exact date before which the Board must act on the current application for state recognition. Once that date is established, the Secretary's office and the Board will communicate the deadline to the Workgroup without delay.

Several board members expressed the need to further clarify the respective powers and duties of the VIAB and the Recognition Workgroup. There have been occasions where the Workgroup have been asked to make decisions or take steps that are properly the purview of the VIAB. (See the motion offered and ratified by the Board later in the meeting.)

Discussion: Correspondence with Tammy Tyree

Chairman Custalow reported that he had spoken to Ms. Tyree regarding the document that she submitted to the VIAB marked confidential. Ms. Tyree agreed to make the document public after redacting some personal information. Several board members spoke in favor of the passing on the document to the Workgroup for evaluation. A motion to that effect was offered by Dr. Kimball and seconded by Dr. Spivey. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Public Comment:

Guests attending in person addressed the board.

- Chief Terry Price, Wolf Creek Cherokee Tribe, asked why someone living outside of Virginia—apparently referring to Ms. Tyree—was allowed to submit documentation to the Board and Workgroup.
- Annette Price asked if the Board could define a "White Appalachian," a "Black Appalachian," or an "Indian Appalachian," evidently referring to Ms. Tyree's letter and documentation. Dr. Kimball replied that it is not the Board's job to answer such questions. She also said that the three federally recognized Cherokee Tribes are "shadowing" the Wolf Creek Cherokee and aim to prevent any other tribe—Cherokee or otherwise—from achieving recognition.

**Closing Remarks:**

Dr. Spivey offered a motion calling for the Board to send a letter to the Recognition Workgroup outlining their duties. These duties are primarily to review the submitted application and make recommendations to the Board based on their professional expertise. The motion was moved by Dr. Kimball and seconded by Ms. Langan. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

The Commission determined the date and time of the commissions next meeting, which will be Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at the Mechanicsville Branch Library. Ms. Holland noted that the members of the commission will be up for reappointment by the Governor on August 24, but that the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office is keenly aware that continuity during the current process is desirable.

Adjournment:

Chair Custalow adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m.